



# Capital City Preparatory Schools, Inc.

Attachment # 3  
Page 1 of 3

December 18, 2003

Ms. Kate West  
Management and Budget Analyst  
Office of Management and Budget  
Leon County Courthouse  
301 South Monroe Street, Suite 502  
Tallahassee, Florida 32301

RE: Additional Questions Presented

Dear Ms. West:

We are pleased to address the additional questions presented, but before we do, I would like to inform the Commissioners of information presented in my initial letter to then Chairman Grippa. Capital City Preparatory Schools, Inc. has come to the Commission because we need your help. When we first approached the Commission three months ago, you were dealing with the issue of minority individuals not being able to acquire home mortgage loans. This issue is well know and verifiable. Small and minority businesses also face the same hurdles. Our coming to the County Commission was due in part to your care for all citizens being able to acquire home ownership, and a sympathetic heart for our small business that has not only provided over twelve (12) new jobs in Leon County, but has benefited our local economy.

Capital City Preparatory Schools, Inc. began last year with an enrollment of 125 students. We did not have any resources of our own to start this endeavor, but a divine word and eventually start up capital of \$158,000 from Florida Pride (Corporate Tax Scholarship Program). Mrs. Barr and I were employed with the State of Florida last year, and were able to help with needed resources from our own pockets. With a monthly budget of approximately \$25,000 we have keenly felt the pain of a small business to make sure everyone is paid and students learning. All of our attempts for financing met concert walls, as our bank turned us down for a loan because our business is new and there was no track record. We are doing an excellent work in developing tomorrow's leaders today through faith, integrity and scholarship. Capital City Preparatory is here making a difference. It is well know and documented that prisons based their profitability on students who are not able to read on a third grade reading level. This alone coupled by educating those who are challenged and gifted, makes for a better environment (Leon County) in which our children can grow and develop. On any given day we have seven positive male role models on campus, cable in the classroom, computer lab, individualized attention for every student through our learning center, parent teacher conferences every month or as required, and After School care, etc.

The last meeting of the Commission, some Commissioners referenced accountability. I appreciate their concerns and would like for the Commission to know that we are fully registered with the State of Florida, Department of Education. Furthermore, as a minister (12 years) and my wife an attorney (20 years) in Florida, we would not do anything to jeopardize our reputation, as "a good name is better to have than riches". Now, to address your additional questions:



Page 2

Response to Kate West

December 18, 2003

**1. What are your revenue sources and how much do you receive from each:**

- a. HEROES \$245,000
- b. Title One (1) \$35,000
- c. Schools and Libraries (E-Rate) Computer infrastructure \$279,000\*
- d. McKay Scholarship \$162,000

\* Not necessarily revenue source, but is a grant that CCPS will receive.

**2. Please explain why your budget is not balanced. Why do expenses exceed revenue by \$72,556**

I am not an accountant, but have provided you with the actual numbers. There are several reasons why we don't have a balanced budget: a) We anticipated the free and reduced lunch program being in place, but it has not happened. We were paying for lunch for the students out of our pocket, which can run as much as \$2,500 per month. b) Unforeseen costs directly associated with the business.

**3. If Leon County allocates funding in the amount of \$35,000, CCPS will have a remaining deficit. What are your plans to address this deficit? What services will be affected by the deficit?**  
Capital City Preparatory remains resolute in finding additional funds to address any deficit. We have an ongoing resource development program and have written grants and/or written request for funding to such entities as the W. E. Garry Foundation, Garth Brooks Foundation, Whitney Houston Foundation, etc. We have obtained a copy of Florida Foundations and will be submitting request as well. This is an ongoing effort to address deficit issues. The services that will be affected by the deficit is our After School Program. After School services are provided free of charge, as the majority of our students are on the fixed and reduced lunch program; therefore, their parents would not be able to afford these services. Our offering the After School Program provides opportunity for parents to seek gainful employment, thereby strengthening the economy of Leon County and Tallahassee. We will seek out funding from corporate and governmental entities to fund our After School Program.

**4. Is CCPS accredited? If not, why not? Are you in the process of seeking accreditation?**

No, because we are a new school and the accreditation process takes three to five years once a school is established. We have, however developed an accreditation committee which meets on a regular basis and is preparing to submit for accreditation Fall or Spring 2004. Yes, we are in the process of seeking accreditation.



Page 3  
Response to Kate West  
December 18, 2003

**5. Is CCPS duplicated by other agencies/schools in Leon County?**

We have conducted a random survey of seven (7) other private schools in Leon County, but they were not comfortable in saying whether they were 501 (c) (3) or not. Yes, there are other educational entities in Tallahassee/Leon County Florida that provide **similar** services, but as far as we can determine, we are the only one that is nonprofit with an actual **501 (c) (3) IRS** determination. A copy has been provided. These other educational entities provide similar services for a fee and profit.

Lastly, the \$35,000 will be used (40/60) for salaries and rent. Additional updates will be provided to this report by 12:00 tomorrow, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Rev. Norris H. Barr  
President/Headmaster